

What is claimed is:

1 A network commerce system comprising:

an orderer terminal handled by an orderer ordering  
an item or service;

5 a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
which is handled by a producer/processor, said  
producer/processor producing and processing said item  
or provides a produced and processed item, in  
accordance with an order from said orderer terminal;

10 wherein said orderer terminal and said  
producing/processing terminal are interconnected via  
said network; and

a headquarters terminal including a receiver for  
receiving an order from said orderer terminal  
15 transmitted via said network and a transmitter for  
transmitting the order received by said receiver to a  
producing/processing terminal via said network;

said headquarters terminal selectively determining  
said producing/processing terminal in accordance with  
20 a received order and then making the selected  
producing/processing terminal produce and process  
said item or provide a produced and processed item.

2 The network commerce system defined in Claim 1, wherein  
25 said item or service is an item edited with digital data

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7 The network commerce system defined in Claim 3, wherein said item or said service is delivered or supplied to a destination other than said orderer.

5 8 The network commerce system defined in Claim 1, wherein said digital data comprises image data or acoustic data.

9 The network commerce system defined in Claim 8, further comprising a payment terminal connected to said network,  
10 for paying a purchase charge of said item sold or said service provided, via said orderer terminal.

10 The network commerce system defined in Claim 9,  
wherein said item or said service is delivered or supplied  
15 to a destination other than said orderer.

11 The network commerce system defined in Claim 1,  
further comprising a payment terminal connected to said  
network, for paying a purchase charge of said item sold or  
20 said service provided, via said orderer terminal.

12 The network commerce system defined in Claim 11,  
wherein said item or said service is delivered or supplied  
to a destination other than said orderer.

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13 The network commerce system defined in Claim 1,  
 wherein said item or said service is delivered or supplied  
 to a destination other than said orderer.

5 14 A headquarters terminal comprising:

orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
 ordering an item or service;

a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
 which is handled by a producer/processor which  
 10 produces and processes said item or supplies a  
 produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
 from each of said orderer terminals; and

a headquarters terminal including:

a receiver for receiving an order  
 15 transmitted from said orderer terminal via  
 said network;

a transmitter for transmitting an item  
 received by said receiving means to a  
 producing/receiving terminal via said  
 20 network; and

means for selectively determining said  
 producing/processing terminal in accordance  
 with a received order and then making said  
 producing/processing terminal produce and  
 25 process said item or making said selected

producing/processing terminal supply said  
produced/processed item;

wherein a network commerce is performed between  
said orderer terminal and said producing/processing  
terminal connected via a network.

15 A producing/processing terminal comprising:

orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
ordering an item or service;

a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
which is handled by a producer/processor which  
produces and processes said item or supplies a  
produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
from each of said orderer terminals; and

a headquarters terminal including:

a receiver for receiving an order  
transmitted from an orderer terminal via said  
network;

a transmitter for transmitting an order  
received by said receiver to a  
producing/processing terminal via said  
network; and

means for selectively determining said  
producing/processing terminal in accordance  
with a received order and then making said

producing/processing terminal produce and  
 process said item or supply said  
 produced/processed item;

5 wherein a network commerce is performed between  
 said orderer terminal and said producing/processing  
 terminal connected via a network.

16 An orderer terminal used in a network commerce system,  
 said network commerce system comprising:

10 orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
 ordering an item or service;

a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
 which is handled by a producer/processor which  
 produces and processes said item or supplies a  
 15 produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
 from each of said orderer terminals; and

a headquarters terminal including:

a receiver for receiving an order  
 transmitted from an orderer terminal via said  
 20 network;

a transmitter for transmitting an item  
 received by said receiver to a  
 producing/receiving terminal via said  
 network; and

25 means for selectively determining said

producing/processing terminal in accordance  
with a received order and then making said  
selected producing/processing terminal  
produce and process said item or supply said  
5 produced/processed item;

wherein a network commerce is performed between a  
producing/processing terminal and said headquarters  
terminal connected via a network.

10 17 A payment terminal used in a network commerce system,  
said network commerce system comprising:

orderer terminals each handled by an orderer  
ordering an item or service;

15 a plurality of producing/processing terminals each  
which is handled by a producer/processor which  
produces and processes said item or supplies a  
produced/processed item, in accordance with an order  
from each of said orderer terminals; and

a headquarters terminal including:

20 a receiver for receiving an order  
transmitted from said orderer terminal via  
said network;

a transmitter for transmitting an item  
received by said receiver to a  
25 producing/receiving terminal via said





of said received order, using said headquarters terminal;

transmitting said order to said selected producing/processing terminal via said network;

5 making said selected producing/processing terminal produce and process said item or supply said produced/processed item; and

10 paying, when said order is received or after said produced/processed item is supplied, a purchase charge of said item or service via said orderer terminal.